(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any demand or request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for giving it some gas for its consumption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated on the demand/request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has found gas in well GS-15-9 drilled on GS-15 prospect in the shallow waters of Krishna Godavari Basin, 12 Km off the Amalapuram coast in Andhra Pradesh at a water depth of 17.8 metres. The well has encountered a new pool with a gas column of about 45 metres having a thin oil rim at the bottom. The potential of the lead is under assessment.

(c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Government of India to direct GAIL India Ltd. (GAIL)/ONGC to increase supplies of natural gas for four upcoming power projects. Accordingly, ONGC, the main producer in KG Basin, has been advised to make all efforts to enhance production from their existing as well as new fields, so that availability of gas may be augmented for the upcoming power projects. GAIL have also been advised to explore the possibility of augmenting supplies from other sources, including gas at market price from Joint Ventures.

**Self-sufficiency in oil sector**

909. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is running out of oil with 0.4 per cent of the world's oil reserves left in the country for 15 per cent of the world's population;

(b) what is the status of the oil reserves of other countries *vis-a-vis* their population;

(c) whether the self-sufficiency in oil has now become a distant dream, if so, what is the annual production in the country at present and projections for the next five years; and

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2005, proven oil reserves in the country are to the order of 740 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), which are about 0.5% of the total proven reserves of the world. However, India has about 28 billion tonnes of prognosticated hydrocarbon reserves, out of which only 8.2 billion tonnes of hydrocarbon reserves have been established so far. The status of oil reserves *vis-a-vis* population is annexed (source: B.P. statistics).

(c) Given the present demand scenario and the status of production of oil in the country, self-sufficiency is not envisaged in the near future. The production of crude oil for the year 2004-05 was 33.980 MMT.

According to current estimates the projections of crude oil production for the next 5 years are as below:—

(figures in MMT)

| 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34.67 | 35.90 | 39.62 | 37.26 | 37.07 |

(d) Energy security is a key objective of the Common Minimum Programme. The following steps have are being taken to enhance oil security:—

(i) Accelerate domestic hydrocarbon exploration.

(ii) Implementation of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects to enhance oil recovery.

(iii) Offer new acreages through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Already 108 exploration blocks have been awarded including 18 exploration blocks offered under fifth round of NELP.

(iv) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas assets.

(v) Development of alternative sources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Underground Coal Gassification (UCG) and Gas Hydrates, Bio-Diesel (Ethanol/Petrol blending etc.)

(vi) Strategic Saftorage of oil.

(vii) Conservation of oil.